'Indian agents plotting to sell out country'

to sell out the country and urged all nationalist forces to resist them unitedly, reports

The formation of Ganoadalat demand for scrapping the Indemnity Ordinance are part of an Indian design to create political unrest and destabilise the country, they categorically said at a discussion on "Indian Aggression and Push-in".

agents", at the dictate of their foreign master, are taking money and creating issues out expires in February 1997.

the discussion in the Dhaka District Sports Association auditorium yesterday evening.

hani) President Prof Nur Mohammad Kazi, Jamaat city unit Ameer ATM Azharul Islam and Deshpremik Muktijoddha Sangsad President Mohammad Jamshed Shaikh.

Referring to what they called aggression on the economie front, the leaders said Indian goods overflooded domestic market to destroy country's economy and called for boycott of Indian goods.

They blamed Awami League for not taking unanimous resolution in parliament against "Push-in" and stressed the need for building a strong resistance against the Indian ag gression as well as its "agents" in Bangladesh.

its blueprint.

"India started its cultural

aggression to destroy the moral character of our youth community as well as future

Mattur Rahman Nizami said when the people of the country started movement against push-in, "Indian agent Ahmed Sharif made sacrilegious comment on Islam to divert the movement.

ASM Solaiman alleged innumerous newspapers were being published and different organisations like Nirmul Committee springing up with Indian funds to help India fulfil its "evil design"

According to him, Menon was shot at by the Nirmul Committee men to create situation for ousting the democratic government as they failed to cause split among the nationalist forces.

Anwar Zahid said Awami League and some of its allies, as per the Indian design, hatched deeprooted conspiracy against the country for instigating a civil war. "This is why they are demanding repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance.

He called upon the people to remain alert about the "misleading speeches of Indian agents" and urged all nationalist forces to build a greater unity to resist aggression and root out the stooges of India.

"We're ready to accept Bangladeshi tribal nationals, but we'll resist all attempts of pushing in Indian citizens, said Farmanullah Khan, adding weakness of foreign policy is encouraging India and Myanmar in this regard.

Dr Lutfar Rahman said India continued its aggression since liberation, and at present, India's aggression against Bangladesh is in 31 sectors.

"India is out to capture Bangladesh, push-in is an attack on our entity ... to create political unrest here," he said.

Principal Gora blamed the government for failure in effectively resisting the Indian push and called upon the people to remain alert about the dodging of Awami League.

He said the planned December 8 hartal aimed at disturbing the forthcoming SAARC summit.

Ataul Huq Khan said only unity, solidarity and moral courage could fend off such ag-

Employers urge govt not to bow down to SKOP

Bangladesh Employers warned of disastrous effects on the economy if a 48-hour strike as planned by the SKOP to incur an estimated loss of Tk 300 crore, reports UNB.

The association, a broadbased forum of both public and private sector industries. urged the government not to bow down to SKOP's irrational demands which, it said, would be counter productive to the industrial sector by reducing its competitiveness.

lions of educated and uneducated are employed, the govthe interests of a few thousands of workers who are alemployed", a written state-

an illegal entity, pointing out that under the labour laws there is no scope for any wage agreement with an unregistered body like SKOP.

"SKOP has usurped the negotiating rights from the Collective Bargaining Agents (CBA)," the employers said adding that their intervention "is a great setback" for the development of healthy trade

of the 48-hour strike called by SKOP for November 29-30 to press for a series of demands related to wages and financial benefits as well as halt government's move for privatiza-

tion of public sector industries. About the SKOP demand for a National Minimum Wage, the BEA said any such move would make some sectors unviable and reduce economic activity. Quoting a World Bank study, the statement said national

minimum wage reduced employment level. "There must not be a national minimum wage applicable across-the-board for all in-

dustries ... It will be suicidal for the economy." BEA recommended each industrial sector should fix its wages after discussion with the

concerned CBAs and not through SKOP.

"Same wage for all sectors will cripple such enterprises and worsen the burden on national exchequer." For example, it said, Oil and Gas Corporation might be able to absorb a higher wage compared to Jute or Textile

Wage must be linked to productivity, BEA said. It pointed out that labour productivity in the manufacturing sector during 1970-1986 declined by 17 per cent while wages went up by 258 per

On the question of halting the privatization process, the BEA said, "this means perpetuation of inefficiency and continued subsidy to the nationalised sector."

"The government should tell SKOP that it is none of their business to discuss privatization. It is the prerogative of the parliament to decide what to privatize and when," the statement said.

The BEA appealed to the government as well as to the political parties to review the SKOP demands "dispassionately" and determine policies in the parliament for the greater interest of the nation.

From Page 1 Col 4

The president-elect said he would be speaking with Korean President Roh Tae Woo later Thursday.

Clinton didn't name any of the aides he was appointing to key transition jobs.

But sources said he was turning to key campaign strategists and a long-time Democratic Party aide to manage the day-to-day operations of the transition, and policy experts to oversee specific areas, including the economy, health care and foreign policy

Robert Reich, a Harvard economist, longtime friend and a fellow Rhodes scholar, will head economic policy, the sources said today. Al From, president of the Democratic Leadership Council, will oversee domestic policy, and Judy Feder, who directed the Pepper Commission study of the nation's medical care system, will head health care, the

Editor: S. M. Ali

sources said.

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Sheikh Hasina addressing a section of BCL (M-I) activists of Tongi Government College at her Minto Road residence who called on her after their victory in the college union election. - Star photo

Altaf Hossain last night.

Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia last night visited

the Gopibagh residence of

Ganotantri Party leader Syed

Altaf Hossain to pay her last

She stayed with the mem-

The Prime Minister ex-

pressed deep sympathy to the

members of the bereaved fam-

ily and prayed for the peace of

the departed soul. Home

Minister Abdul Matin Chow-

dhury, State Minister for

Sports and Youth Sadek

Hossain and Begum Khwaja

Ahsanullah MP accompanied

Ahmed Manik and Ganotantri

Party leader Ahmedul Kabir

President and Leader of the

Opposition Sheikh Hasina last

night expressed profound

shock at the demise of

Ganatantri Party leader and

veteran politician Syed Altaf

triot, political personality and

experienced parliamentarian

with his death, Hasina said in a

said the nation would remem-

ber the great contribution of

late Sved Hossain to the coun-

try's liberation war in 1971

and the "post-75 anti-autoc-

bution to rebuilding the war-

ravaged Bangladesh as a cabi-

net minister of the govern-

ment of Bangabandhu Sheikh

establishing democracy, will

remain a source of inspiration

for political workers, the

salvation of the departed soul

and expressed sympathy for

members of the bereaved fam-

She prayed for peace and

Awami League leader said.

His life, full of struggle for

He also had a great contri-

The Awami League chief

message of condolence.

racy" movement.

Mujibur Rahman.

The country lost a true pa-

CPB leader Saifuddin

UNB reports: Awami League

bers of the bereaved family and

respect to the late leader.

condoled the death.

the Prime Minister.

Hossain.

were also present there.

Syed Altaf dead

From Page 1 Col 8 prayers at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

His wife and daughter. Ganatantri Party Chairman Ahmedul Kabir and other party leaders and workers were present when the leader breathed his last at 10-25 pm yesterday.

Syed Altaf Hossain, who had a chequered political career, was a minister in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib's cabinet. He also worked as a journalist with the now-defunct Daily Morning News and Daily Sangbad.

Born and Bistodia village of greater Kushtia district in 1925, Syed Altaf Hossain passed his Matriculation examination in 1939, graduated from Calcutta Islamia College in 1944 and obtained M A degree in History from Calcutta University in 1947. He also had his B L degree from Calcutta University the same

Syed Altaf Hossain joined ournalism during his student life in the English daily the Morning News published from Calcutta in 1944. He also served with the Morning News published from Dhaka after the partition and later associated himself with Pakistan Observer and the New Nation published from Dhaka in 1956. He was also a member of

during his student life. Sayed Altaf as an student activist joined the movement for the removal of the "Hollwell Monument" in 1940 and also played a role in preventing the communal riots in Calcutta in

the anti-fascist writers' guild

After partition, Syed Altaf returned to Dhaka and took part in the Language Movement from 1948. He joined the newly formed Awami Muslim League.

He was elected a member of the then East Pakistan Legislative Assembly as a candidate of the Juktafront in 1954. He had to go underground to escape arrest twice and returned to open politics in 1956 after the withdrawal of the warrant of arrest.

He joined the National Awami Party under the leadership of Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani in 1957 and became its General Secretary in 1965 and continued in the same post upto 1972. He was arrested several times during Ayub Khan's regime.

He was one of the front rankers who had organised the Liberation War in 1971.

He joined the cabinet of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975. He was the president of Jatiya Ekota Party from 1978 to 1986 and became the president of Ganatantry Party in 1990. He was also a member of Supreme Court Bar and Vice Principal of Dhaka Law College.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the

Special cell for information on tribal law, custom

NETROKONA, Nov 12: The government has formed a special cell in the Ministry of Law and Justice to collect information on the legal aspects of the family and social custom and practices of the tribals, reports

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz said this while addressing a rally of Garo tribe representatives at the local paurashava auditorium yester-

He said the government was aware of the socio-economic problems of the tribal communities and a special cell in the Ministry of Law and Justice was now engaged in writing down their family laws, tradition and their developments.

Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad MA Karim, Abu Abbas, MP, and Secretary in charge of the Ministry Mirza Asaduzzaman Al-Faruque were also present.

Hasina demands rail-track in Opposition in Parliament Jamuna Bridge Sheikh Hasina expressed their deep shock at the death of Opposition Leader Sheikh Ganatantri Party leader Syed

Hasina yesterday called for in clusion of rail in the proposed Jamuna multipurpose bridge to improve railway communication between the capital and northern region, reports UNB.

Addressing a gathering of railway workers and employees at 29, Minto Road in the afternoon, the Awami League presi dent extended support to their 11-point demand, including provision for rail-track on the planned bridge over river

Earlier, a big procession of Railway Sramik League led by its President Rahmatullah Chowdhury came to the venue from Kamlapur Railway Station.

They submitted a copy of memorandum with their 11 point demand to the opposition leader.

The present government has failed to convince donors about the necessity of railtrack on the Jamuna Bridge she told the railway workers.

Hasina said developing communication network is the pre-condition to economic development of any country, but there was no initiative and plan of the government to modernise the railway sector.

"Our main communication is railway, but the wrong policy of government is destroying the sector."

The Awami League chief said economically backward northern districts of the country are ridden with multifarious problems.

Railway over the proposed bridge, she said, is essential for economic development of the northern region.

Referring to various problems of workers, the Leader of the Opposition criticised the government for repression and retrenchment of labourers in railway and other industrial units. The government will not be allowed to sack workers without creating alternative employment, she warned.

Hasina demanded reopening of all closed mills and fac-



A seven-year-old girl received injuries in bomb blast in Narayanganj Thursday. Relatives said that Sultana received injuries when a group of people hurled the bomb while she was playing near her house at Gymkhana area in Narayangonj town. The girl was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. - Star photo

Kerry Committee report false, claims Mizan

By Staff Correspondent The Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party (JP), Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, in a statement Thursday termed the Kerry Commission report on smuggling out of money by Ershad from Bangladesh 'false' and said it was aimed at belittling the former President.

Mizan said JP would support any kind of legal actions against anyone if there is any proof of smuggling out money from the country.

The JP Acting Chairman also asked the media to justify the fact of any report before publishing it. Legal actions would be

taken against such false re-

ports, he warned.

Jamaat leader murder 5 more get bail in Sirajganj SIRAJGANJ, Nov 12: Five

more leaders of the district unit of Ekattarer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, arrested in a Jamaat leader murder case, were released on bail today, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activist, Shakil Ahmed, was arrested this morning in connection with the killing of Jamaat man Abul Kashem.

Those released are Convenor of the district unit of Nirmul Committee and correspondent of the Daily Ittefaq Aminul Islam Chowdhury, CPB district unit Secretary !smail Hossain, Convenor of the district unit of BSD Firoze Bhuiyan, BSD leader Abu Bakr and Deputy Commander of the Sadar thana Muktijoddha Sangsad Fazlur Rahman.

Saifur urges OIC members to clear up dues

TEHRAN, Nov 12: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has called upon the member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to clear up their dues as subscription to the organisation and its affiliated bodies, reports BSS.

The Finance Minister was making a statement at the 17th annual meeting of the board of governors of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) which concluded here yesterday.

Saifur Rahman urged the member states to come forward and clear the arrears in the greater interest of the Islamic ummah.

The Finance Minister conveyed to the Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani regards and best wishes of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. President Rafsanjani reciprocated the same to the Bangladesh Prime Minister.

Saifur Rahman called on his Iranian counterpart Dr Mohsin Noorbaksh. They had a fruitful and cordial discussion of mutual and bilateral interests. The discussion included possible areas of Bangladesh-Iran joint venture, expansion of bilateral trade, establishment of joint economic commission, and financing of projects in oil and gas fields.

The Finance Minister also called on the President of IDB Dr Ahmad Mohammad Ali and discussed matters of mutual interests. He requested the IDB President to increase the volume of assistance in the socio-economic uplift process of Bangladesh.

The IDB President lauded the role of the present democratic government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in qualitative improvement of the lot of the people of Bangladesh.

World Bank chief

From Page 1 Col 8 Zia. He will have talks with Finance, Agriculture, Commerce, Jute and Energy ministers. Preston will also meet the parliamentarians, officials, academicians and top NGO representatives.

He is also expected to visit Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge site and a number of schools health complexes and family welfare centres at Bera and Kashinathpur. He will also address a press conference. The cumulative bank group

commitments to Bangladesh so far totalled 5.6 billion US dollar. The bank approved 129 credits and one loan since Bangladesh became a member in 1972. Of the total commitments of the International Development Association (IDA), the soft loan window of the WB, approximately 20 per cent have been for agriculture, irrigation and rural development, 14 per cent for industry, 17 per cent for power and technical assistance, 5 per cent for population and health, 2 per cent for urban infrastructure, 24 per cent for adjustment and other non-project credits, and 3 per cent for energy rehabilitation.

Ever since Bangladesh became the member of International Finance Corporation (IFC), another body of the WB group, six investments involving a total of 22 million US dollars were approved.

During the fiscal year (FY) '91, IDA gross disbursement to Bangladesh totalled to 331 million US dollar and the estimated disbursement for '92 fiscal year is 236.17 million US dollar. In FY '91, Multilateral

(MIGA), a member of the WB group, issued a shareholder guarantee of 18.2 million US The external aid commit-

Investment Guarantee Agency

ments to Bangladesh are currently over 2.2 billion US dollar a year of which IDA's share is in the range of 20-25 per For FY '91-96, IDA's lend-

ing programme is expected to average about 445 million US dollar a year. In FY '91, total commitments for six operations were 460 million US dollar, while for FY '92 the commitments for 253 million US dollar were made for four op-

Wife of the WB President, Lewis T Preston, and WB Vice-President Joshep Wood will accompany the WB president.

Mostafiz

From Page 1 Col 8 Indian capital.

Diplomatic observers here feel that his visit to New Delhi may provide the two sides and opportunity to discuss bilateral issues of common concern. Mostafiz is scheduled to fly

to Islamabad on Sunday to meet Pakistani Prime Minister Newaz Sharif and hand over the SAARC invitation letter. He will then go to

Kathmandu to extend invitation to the Nepalese Prime Minister before returning home on November 19.

The Midnight File

Bush extends emergency to curb chemical arms production

WASHINGTON, Nov 12: President Bush has extended a national emergency declared two years ago to back up curbs on the production of chemical and biological weapons. In a letter to the leaders of the House and Senate dated Wednesday, Bush warned the spread of chemical and biological weapons in the world continues to pose "an unusual and extraordinary threat" to the United States. The two-yearold order prohibits exports that would help foreign chemical and biological weapons programmes and controls exports that would assist foreign countries in producing and procuring chemical weapons, reports AP.

Inspiration for Bond's inventor 'O' dead

LONDON, Nov 12: Charles Fraser-Smith, who inspired lan Fleming to create "O', James Bond's gadget inventor, has died, his family said Thursday. He was 88, Fraser-Smith died at his home in Bratton Fleming, southwest England, on Monday, his family said. The cause was not disclosed. He worked alongside Fleming during World War II, making ingenious devices to help British secret agents, servicemen, prisoners of war, most of whom were in Nazi-occupied Europe, reports AP.

Hussein pardons 2 MPs

AMMAN, Nov 12: King Hussein today ordered a general amnesty in Jordan, thus pardoning two Muslim fundamentalist MPs sentenced earlier this week to 20 years of hard labour. The royal palace said the amnesty was to mark the king's 57th birthday on Saturday, reports AFP.

Israel returns to ME confce

OTTAWA, Nov 12: Israel returned to a conference on Middle East refugees Thursday after walking out Wednesday over objections to the leader of the Palestinian delegation. reports AP.

Toxic fertiliser

From Page 1 Col 7

IRRI and aman crop," they said "the farmers have no idea about any potential hazards associated with the fertilizer."

The US Embassy in Bangladesh warned of possible contamination even before the consignment arrived in Chittagong in January. BADC collected samples from the ship and asked Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) and few other organisations to conduct tests.

The US embassy also collected separate samples and sent it for testing to South Carolina.

BARI returned the test results the same month recommending that the level of lead and cadmium found in the samples will not be harmful to the plants or to the environment. Prompting BADC to release the consignment and distribute it. But, in April, test findings

at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control Confirmed that the samples contained 6.9 per cent of lead and .05 per cent of cadmium, exceeding US environmental protection agency limits.

"In order to prevent further contamination we call for the return of the unused fertlizer immediately to the central godown in Dhaka and then taken back to the United States," they said.

Appreciating the government step to form an investi-

Blasphemy: Akhter Hamid may face death sentence

ISLAMABAD, Nov 12: A second Pakistani has been accused of blasphemy, following the sentencing of a Christian Pakistani to death last month on a similar charge, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said today, reports AFP.

Akhter Hamid Khan, who runs a social welfare project in a poor locality of southern port city of Karachi, is to appear before a District and Sessions Judge in the city of Sahiwal in Punjab on December 20, charged with blaspheming the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) in an interview published by a weekly in 1990.

On November 3, Masih Gul was sentenced to death in the . Punjab city of Sargodha in the first such verdict since the penalty for blasphemy was stiffened. He has reportedly filed an appeal to a High Court against the conviction.

The death penalty was imposed for disrespectful or derogatory remarks about the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) in an amendment to Pakistan's penal code five months ago, Previously, the offence was punishable by life imprison-

The amendment was made in line with a verdict by the country's top religious federal Shariat court.

BCS (Judiciary) Assoc threatens court boycott

Bangladesh Civil Service (Judiciary) Association yesterday threatened tough action like court boycott if its fivepoint demand was not met by November 30, reports UNB.

gation committee, they added we urge the government to take necessary and strict measures to protect Bangladesh from this and all future imported hazardous waste." They also called upon ADB

to commit to deny funds for any waste material trade in the future. "Since their money was used to import the hazardous fertilizer, we believe they have a responsibility to pay for it's return to the United States. Replying to a question,

Leonard said that she will take samples of the fertilizer and soil collected from Dinajpur and get them tested in the United States. Greenpeace, she added, will also circulate information collected here in the US.

Commending the US government for prosecuting the illegal waste manufacturers and exporters, they cautioned "but we remind them that the case against those companies cannot be resolved as long as the waste remains here in

Bangladesh. "By sending it back to the United States we can set an example to show that Bangladesh is not a place to dump wastes of developed countries," said Farida Akhter

BDR, shopowners From Page 1 Col 7

diately called a hartal to protest the atrocities.

of UBINIG.

During the hartal, sounds of cracker blasts were heard in different points of the town and one person had reportedly received minor injuries in a Later in the afternoon, an

understanding was reached be-

tween the shopowners and the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and the hartal was called off at 4 pm. The understanding came at an open meeting attended by the shopowners, DC, BDR officials and other members of the task force. However, at 5 pm, the task force again came to conduct

cent of the town shops protesting the drive. The task force carried out its operation in the remaining shops. Talking to The Daily Star, the leaders of the shopowners federation alleged that the BDR personnel misbehaved

with them during the anti-

the anti-smuggling drive., The

shop owners shut down 90 per

smuggling drive. BDR officials, however, said that some BDR members might have gone tough to deal

with the situation. Later, the shopowners held a protest rally at Pubali in the town. Alamgir Khan presided over the rally which was followed by a procession.

Bengal Tigers From Page 1 Col 7

population of these villages has decreased as they also fall victims to the man-eaters.

The villagers remain tightly shut in their houses soon after dusk for fear of the night intruders, Khasru said.

Experts now feel that fresh

games especially boars should

be introduced in the area from other parts of the forest for food of the tigers. On the other hand, cattle grazing should be stopped for sustaining the grazing grounds of the games. They said that social

forestry should also be introduced in the villages for supply of the villagers fuel demand. They feel that this would stop the villagers tresspassing into the forest for wood.

Leaders of different rightwing parties yesterday said "Indian agents" were plotting

generation," he said.

and Nirmul Committee and the They alleged the "Indian

of non-issues one after another for renewal of the 25-year Indo-Bangladesh pact which Jamaat-e-Islami arranged

Presided over by Acting Ameer of Jamaat Abbas Ali Khan, the function was addressed by Jamaat Secretary General Matiur Rahman Nizami, MP, NDP President Anwar Zahid, Krisak Sramik Party President ASM Solatman, Muslim League Vice President Alhai Sirajuddin, Islamic Party President Advocate Formanullah Khan, Dhaka University teacher Dr Lutfar Rahman, Muslim Jatiyatabadi Dal President Principal Strajul Huq Gora, Muslim League leader Ataul Hug Khan, NAP (Bhas-

Abbas Ali Khan said since independence, India continued its hegemonist policy invariegated ways to eliminate Muslims, and push-in is part of

Association (BEA) yesterday later this month was enforced to allow the national economy

"In a country, where milernment should not sacrifice their interests for protecting ready fortunate of having been

ment of BEA said. The BEA identified SKOP as

unionism in the country. The statement came in view

Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam